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INTRY East Germany REPORT NO.

NC Military Information from Grimma

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25X1A EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 1 November to 22 December 1952

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 22 January 1953

REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 22 December 1952, the Strassburg Kaserne on the south side of Leipziger Strasse, opposite the Gerichtsweg, Grimma, was occupied by about 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. All barracks buildings were lighted at dusk. From 12 to 19 December, 6 to 8 tanks were seen leaving the installation at about 6 a.m. and returning at noon, at a rate of two or three times a week. On 12 and 19 December, about 150 soldiers were receiving formation drill in the barracks yard. On 12 December, 2 trucks, including [redacted] and occupied by 18 troops each, entered the installation, coming from the direction of Leipzig. [redacted]

2. On 22 December, the Elsner Kaserne on Franz Mehring Strasse was occupied to capacity by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, including a few with artillery insignia. On 12 and 19 December, about 130 troops were engaged in formation drill in the barracks [redacted]

3. On 12 and 19 December, several soldiers with bandages were seen in the former county administration building and the school. About one third of the quarters were lighted at dusk. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets. 2

4. On 13 December, the barracks buildings on the Otterwisch training grounds were vacant. The training area was used as a firing range for tanks and machine guns by units from Grimma. From 23 November to 13 December, 15 troops, who had arrived on [redacted] were adjusting rifles and machine guns, about 150 troops engaged in training in firing and 2 T-34 tanks were at driving practice in the training area. [redacted]

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5. On 17 December, all barracks buildings of the Strassburg Kaserne were fully lighted after nightfall. On 7 November, about 1,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia, had fallen in in the barracks area. At about 9 a.m. on 18 December, about 900 troops supported by four T-34/85 tanks were seen in a simulated attack to take a hill in the training area on the Rumberg (hill). At about 8 a.m. on 29 December, about 500 troops left the installation for Otterwisch for firing practice with 17 T-34/85 tanks with live ammunition. After the firing practice, the troops returned to the installation and the tanks remained at the firing range.
6. On 28 December, the Elsner Kaserne was occupied to capacity. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. All barracks buildings were lighted after nightfall. On 19 December, about 120 troops were seen at loading and aiming practices on 5 x 76.2-mm guns in the barracks yard and, on 30 December, about 100 troops left the installation for entrenching work at the Rumberg (hill).
7. At about 7:50 a.m. on 28 December, 46 officers, including 20 with tank insignia, 2 with signal insignia and 8 with motor transport insignia, arrived at the Grima railroad station.

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9. On 16 December, the Strassburg Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia and some with artillery insignia.

10. On 16 December, the east building of the Elsner Kaserne was occupied by about 300 troops.

11. On 16 December, the NAGEMA installation was occupied by a headquarters.

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1. Comment. Units carried in the Strassburg Kaserne and the Elsner Kaserne included the 21st Gds Mecz Regt, the 133d Gds Engr Bn and the unidentified signal battalion, all of the 8th Gds Mecz Div. The distribution of the units in the two installations is not known. Information in the present report gives no indication for the engineer battalion and the signal battalion carried in the Elsner Kaserne.

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2. ☐ Comment. The county administration building and the school are occupied by the division hospital.
3. ☐ Comment. The Otterwisch troop training grounds is continually being utilized by the 8th Gds Mecz Div.
4. ☐ Comment. The NAGEMA is known to be occupied by the Hq 8th Gds Mecz Div.

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